

Minutes for the Arlington Bicycle Advisory Committee meeting of September 14, 2016

Board members present were Christopher Tonkin, Stephan Miller, Phil Goff, Ron Sender, Doug Greenfield, and Scott Smith. Jack Johnson was absent. Also attending were Laura Tennenhouse, Joey Glushko, Officer Mahoney, Rod Holland, Elizabeth Shea, Emily Snyder and Nat Strosberg.

The meeting was called to order at 7:35pm

*Approval of the August minutes. The minutes for the August meeting were approved after they were amended. The vote to approve was unanimous.

We all introduced ourselves.

COBWEB. Officer Mahoney introduced himself and we thanked him for his participation. There were no issues specifically dealing with the COBWEB program to be discussed at this meeting.

New Planning Dept. liaison to ABAC, Nat Strosberg. Nat is the new Senior planner who will be replacing Joey Glushko as the Town's liaison to ABAC. He gave us a brief summary of his job history, his qualifications and what he plans to do to get started. Nat told us that he has met with his counterparts in Lexington and Bedford to discuss a bike sharing partnership (Zagster). Zagster works with a leasing agreement rather than outright purchase model used by Hubway. He gave us a summary of the technology involved. We had a debate about the pros and cons of this arrangement. The pros included that it is cheaper and we would be able to do it sooner. The major con was that Zagster is not only incompatible with Hubway but would also preclude our working with Hubway for the duration of the Zagster contract. We felt that the lack of interoperability with Hubway is a major drawback to Arlington signing up with Zagster.

Flashing lights at the Mill St. intersection. Laura told us that she has medical problems that make the strobe lights attached to the Bikeway crossing on Mill St. a problem for her. She asked us who has jurisdiction over the lights. Joey told us this might be under the Parks and Recreation Department. Phil told us that engineers consider rectangular rapid firing beacons (RRFB) as an effective way to warn motorists of a crossing point. Stephan suggested that they would be just as effective with a shower flash rate. Laura will pursue this topic with Parks and Recreation and Nat will consult with various town departments.

CLAMP Project progress. Stephan told us of an experience at the Mass Ave./Mystic St. intersection. He was stopped by a police officer for making a left turn diagonally through the intersection. He felt that without this ability, bicycles will be needlessly delayed. In addition, when the intersection was redesigned, the design assumed the diagonal turn for bicycles heading east on the Bikeway. We hoped the officer was ill informed and that this will not be police policy in the future. In addition, Scott told us that construction is progressing more or less on schedule. We had a brief discussion about the utility of the HAWK signal to be installed at the Swan Place intersection. The consensus was that we will have to wait and see how it works and

that some education of motorists and pedestrians will be necessary so that everyone can understand the HAWK light's function .

Mass. Ave. Phase II redesign update. Christopher would like to have a meeting with VHB to discuss the design before it is final. He asked Nat if he could arrange this. Phil reminded us that will be a public meeting about the latest design on September 22.

Artwork on the Bikeway. Christopher had a meeting with Cecily Miller where they discussed possible locations for artwork on the Bikeway in East Arlington. ABAC is concerned with adding distractions to the Bikeway right-of-way. Christopher told us that there has still been no definitive decision whether the art show will materialize.

Bikeway user counts. Joey suggested that we have a signup at Town Day for additional volunteers for taking counts. Joey gave Nat a primer on how to manage the Bikeway counts because he will be taking over that function. Joey and Nat will meet and plan the next count.

Minuteman Bikeway Anniversary Celebration. The town would like to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the opening of the Bikeway. We appointed Joey and Jack Johnson to represent ABAC on the Anniversary Committee. Those of us old enough to remember the opening and the advocacy that proceeded it reminisced about the celebration that took place at the opening of the Bikeway. Nat, who is new to town, asked to be brought up to date on the topic.

Rails to Trails Historical Sign. Elizabeth met with a member of the Arlington Historical Society and worked up a proposal to submit to Rails to trails for the historical sign to be located on the Bikeway. Elizabeth suggested that any text to be placed on the sign should go through us. Ron's proposal is that the Historical Society should have the final say on what the sign says and that they should work directly with Rails to Trails (RTT). Joey thought we should ask RTT to specify how long a text they require and we can revise what we currently have from the Historical Society to fit their requirements. Elizabeth added that a brief history of Rails To Trails itself might be more interesting than the revolutionary history only indirectly associated with the Bikeway.

Bikeway Hours. We would like to eliminate the hours of use of the Bikeway to prevent the police from stopping bicyclists on the Bikeway at night. We gave Nat some historical perspective on the current bylaw which closes the Bikeway at 9 pm. Scott felt that we should get buy-in from the Chief of Police before we go to the Selectmen.

Town Day. We discussed preparation for Town Day. We will give out helmets and vests and there will be a poster explaining the function of the HAWK light. Stephan will print a new email signup sheet with a check box for those interested in participating in a Bikeway Friends Group.

Other topics.

Rod gave us a summary of the memorial ceremony installing a ghost bike in Somerville. He asked what Arlington's policy about bicycle memorials is. We were unsure about whether there is a policy. He also told us that the Medford bicycle committee has an event comparing the effectiveness of various headlights and would soon disseminate the results.

*The meeting was adjourned at 9:33pm.

*A vote of the board was taken.

These minutes submitted by Stephan Miller